MECHANICS' INSTITUTE
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CHESS ROOM NEWSLETTER

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Gens Una Sumus!

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Falconer TNM Round One Report

by FM Paul Whitehead

The 2nd Neil Falconer Memorial TNM, a 7-round FIDE rated G/120;d5 tournament directed by our newly minted International Arbiter Elect **Dr. Judit Sztaray**, kicked off March 1st with almost 70 participants returning to the chess room in two sections - masked and ready for battle.

In the top section, **IM Elliott Winslow** (AKA "Mr. Tuesday Night") had a hard and sharp fight on board 2 against **Sadia Qureshi** (profiled below) but ultimately prevailed. On board 1, top-ranked by rating **NM Yusheng Xia** drove home the edge he gained from the opening and downed **Mikhail Molodyk**. **Joshua Lamstein** scored an upset victory over Expert **David Askin**, likewise **Stephen Parsons** over **Luke Widjaja.**

The Under 1800 Section saw numerous upsets including **Simone Griso** defeating Shipman TNM winner **Romeo Barreyro**, but top seed **Yonathan Admassu** posted a relatively easy victory over **Thomas Gu**.

Neil Falconer (1923-2014) was a Mechanics' Institute trustee. A remembrance penned by former Chess Room Director **IM John Donaldson** can be found here: http://www.uschess.org/index.php/April/Neil-Falconer-1923-2014.html

Next week: IM John Donaldson Lectures at 5:30PM and book signing!

For TNM info, standings and results: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/falconer-memorial-tuesday-night-marathon

2nd Falconer Memorial TNM Round One

Lucas Radaelli vs. Christian Brickhouse

C67

□ **Radaelli,Lucas** **1442**

■ **Brickhouse,Christian** **701**

Falconer Memorial Tuesday Night Maratho (1.31)
[Brickhouse/de Firmian]

All the games in my database had Lucas as a d4 player with white. Clearly he has expanded his repertoire as he surprised me with e4. **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5** Lucky for me, white plays the Spanish. Three months ago I had prepared the Berlin Defense for my game against Richard Hack, but in that game he played the anti-Berlin. Despite that prep, I hadn't played these lines in months, so I went forward hoping I could remember the lines! **3...Nf6 4.0-0**

[4.d3 Anti-Berlin line seen in Hack-Brickhouse 2021, https://lichess.org/study/ MrxGWiNC/umnM5Bcz#7]

4...Nxe4 5.d4 Nd6 6.Bxc6 dxc6 7.dxe5 Nf5 8.Qxd8+ Kxd8 9.Rd1+ Ke8 I remembered the line! While this looks very scary for black, the position is actually a known draw. Black gives up castling rights but has the bishop pair with an open center. White's pawn on e5 may seem like an asset but in some cases it turns out to be overextended. Black's goal is to stop its advance and use the open diagonals to attack the king. (This line has a lot of play and Black is ok, but I wouldn't call it a known draw - Nick) **10.Nc3 Be6 11.Bg5!?**
I was surprised by this, but it turns out to be a deep concept. It seems like after 11...h6 white retreats and has wasted a tempo, but the goal here is to induce a weakness in black's position. Baiting the h6 push removes one of the knights retreat squares which could be a long-term problem.

[11.g4 Nh6 *(11...Ne7! 12.h3 h5* breaks up the white kingside pawns *)*]

[11.h3]

[11.Bf4]

11...h6 This position was apparently reached (by a different move order) in Rozsnyai, Tibor - Sinkovics, Peter, 0-1, Solymar op, 1996, lichess.org/IMNArLEE
12.Bc1N a5 I want to play Bc5 to get on the diagonal with the king, but after Na4, the bishop gets displaced making the move a waste of a tempo. 12...a5 gives the bishop an escape square, but what makes it better than a6 is that a5 starts an attack and opens up black's rook on a8!

[12...Bc5 13.Na4]

13.b3 Bc5 14.Ne4 Ba7 15.Ba3 Ne7 16.Nc5 I thought for a long time here. Black's advantage in the Berlin is the Bishop pair so moves which trade a bishop seem anti-positional. On the other hand, Bc8 seems too passive and makes it unlikely that I'll ever connect my rooks. Ultimately, I decided that my dark-square bishop is kinda bad, and if I trade it off, I can win time pushing white's bishop around. It turns out to be the best move! **16...Bxc5!**

[16...Bc8 17.e6± Too passive, white gets to advance. *(*or *17.Rd2)*]

[16...b5 17.Nxe6 fxe6± Isolated pawn, weak king, but playable.]

[16...b6 17.Nxe6 fxe6± Much worse than b5 because at least with b5 the queenside pawn structure was nice.]

17.Bxc5 b6 18.Ba3?! Computer says white's best chance was to trade off their bishop. While worse, Ba3 is a much more human move.

[18.Bxe7]

18...Nd5?! Missed opportunity to punish Ba3 with c5.

[18...c5]

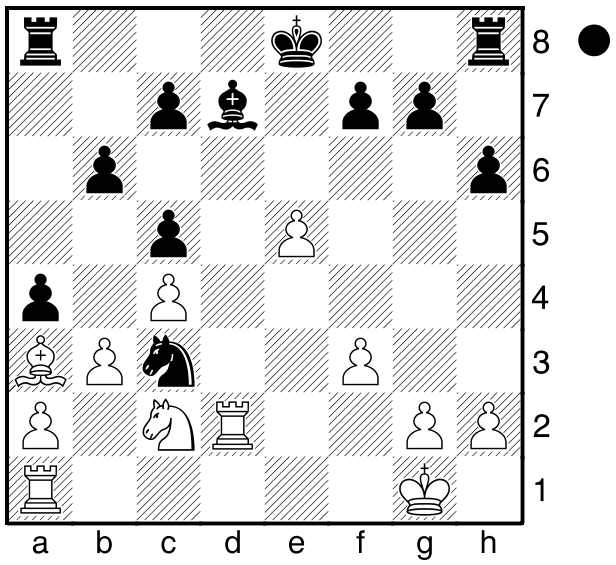
19.Nd4 Bd7 20.Rd2 a4 The a5 push comes alive with a4 setting up some tactics. White sees through the threat and finds the correct defense with c4, but things are still complex. **21.c4**

[Δ21.Kh1 axb3 22.axb3 Nb4 23.Bxb4 Rxa1+ #-2]
[21.Bb2 a3 22.Bc1 Black's problems are solved while white's Bishop and a1 rook are out of the game.]

21...Nc3 22.f3

[22.Bb2 Ne4 23.Re2 Nc5 24.Rd1 (This is a bit better for White - Nick)]

22...c5 23.Nc2



Nxa2!? White blunders here, falling for the piece sacrifice. The only line which keeps white's advantage is bxa4!

24.Rxa2? White hangs a fork, giving back the knight and going down a pawn.

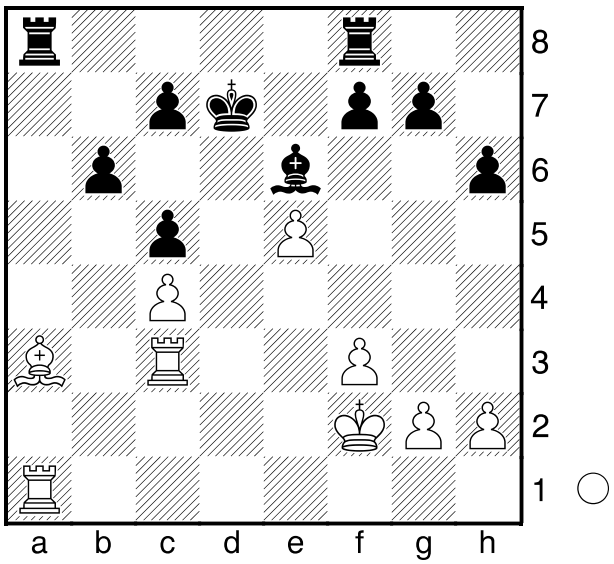
[24.Re2 axb3]

[(White should try 24.bxa4 Nc3 25.Bb2 Nxa4 26.e6! fxe6 27.Bxg7 Rh7 28.Be5 with good compensation for the pawn -Nick)]

24...axb3 25.Ra1 bxc2 26.Rxc2 Rf8?! I realized after playing that move that it would be better to spend time maneuvering my king and bishop because my rook would rather be on e8. I admit this mistake and spend the next few moves doing just that.

[26...Be6 27.Kf2 Kd7 28.Bb2 Rhe8]

27.Kf2 Be6 28.Rc3?! Probably to avoid problems with Bf5 or leaving the bishop unguarded after Rac1. **28...Kd7**



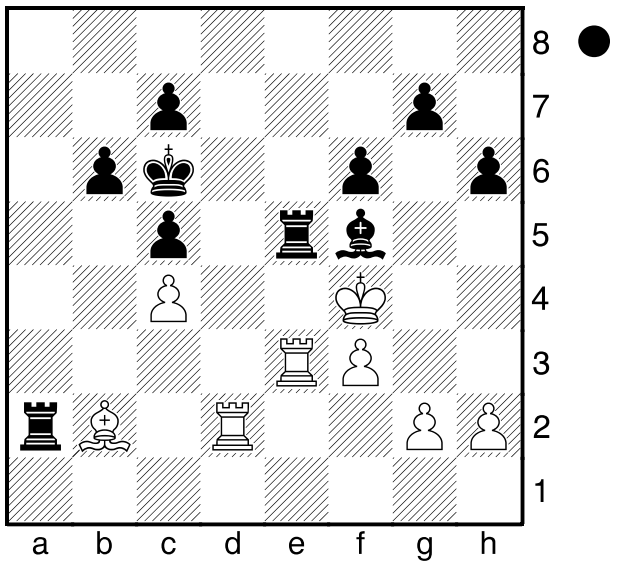
(This is a very tough ending for White despite the bishops of opposite color. The white pawn on c4 is a clear target.- Nick) **29.Ke3 Rfe8** Finally got my rook in the right place, and fortunately white didn't take advantage of the tempo I wasted. **30.Rd1+ Kc6** Remember, the king never castled! After 30 moves, it manages to run to safety on c6 of all places. **31.Bb2** White's piece coordination is messed up, and I hope to make it worse. White has two major weaknesses on e5 and c4. By using my positional advantage to attack the weaknesses, I hope to divert white's pieces and gain further concessions from white. **31...Ra4 32.Rdc1 Ra2!** (Black wins another pawn and there is no real hope for White anymore - Nick) **33.R1c2** The situation is dire for white. While R1c2 was best, it opens the rook up to an attack from the bishop. This results in a discover attack on the e5 pawn, and white simply cannot defend both.

[33.Ba3 Loses a pawn to Rxg2]

[33.R3c2 Loses a pawn to Bxc4]

33...Bf5 34.Rd2 Rxe5+ Black's plan to isolate and win the weaknesses is successful. **35.Kf4** The king advance is

scary but black stabilizes after f6 **35...f6** **36.Re3?**

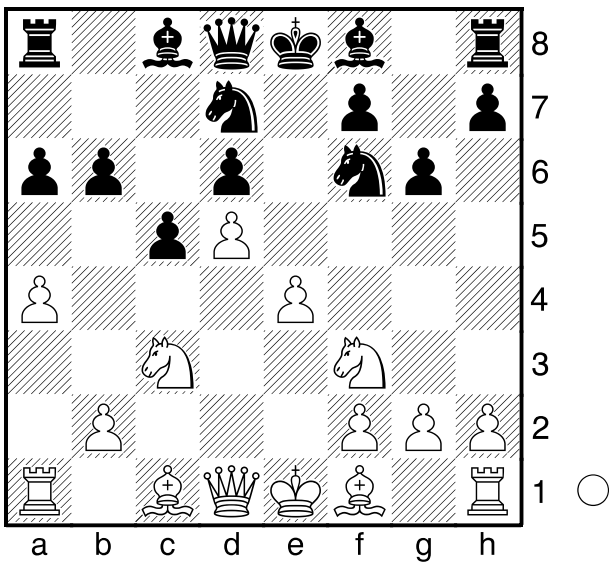


g5+ Resignation White's only legal move results in 37. Kg3 Rxe3 where white is down 7 points of material in an end game. White chooses to resign here.
0-1

E10

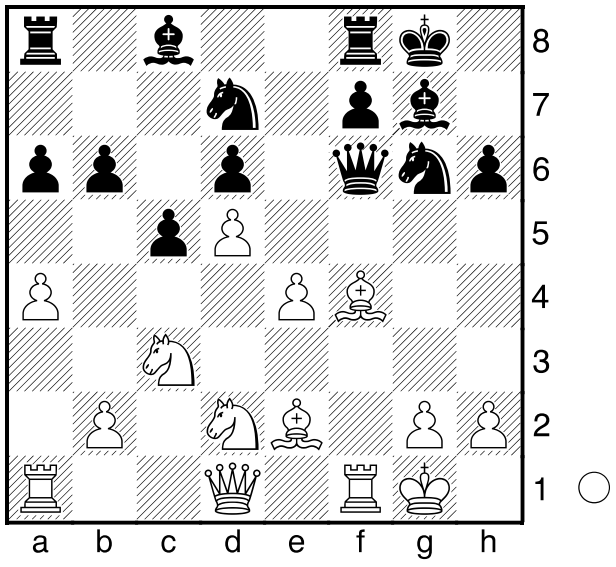
□ **Qureshi,Sadia** **1836**
■ **Winslow,Elliott** **2258**
MI Falconer TNM: 1800+ (1.2) 01.03.2022
[Winslow/de Firmian]

1.d4 8 **Nf6** 6 **2.c4** 5 **e6** 34 **3.Nf3** 23 **c5** 27 **4.e3** 11:04
[4.d5]
4...a6 4:55 One of the best scoring "asymmetrical" moves, along with
[4...g6!?]
[Of course, 4...d5 acquiesces to the Mirror Game, which Black was loathe to do in Round One against a player rated over 400 points lower.]
5.Nc3 47 **b6** 58
[5...d5 might still beat symmetry with ...dxc4, ...b5, ...Bb7 and ...Nbd7]
6.d5!? 9:11 It's starting to look like White has gotten the better of the delay, even with losing the tempo with e2-e3-e4 imminent. **6...exd5** 8 **7.cxd5** 46 **d6** 52
8.e4 59
[8.a4!?]
8...Nbd7 3:56
[8...b5 has only been played once here, but it transposes into a couple dozen games; it's hard to say how it's going. The game with this move order had Stockfish's favorite move: 9.Bd3 Bg4?! 10.Bg5? *(10.h3 Bxf3 11.Qxf3 Nbd7 12.0-0±)* 10...Nbd7 11.h3 Bxf3 12.Qxf3 Be7 13.0-0 0-0 14.Bf4 Qb6 15.g4!? Black was clearly better but something happened along the way of this upset: 1-0 (39) Rodriguez Marin, J (1675) -Kovacevic,S (2303) Amposta Balague Memorial 3rd (1) 2016]
9.a4 4:47 **g6** 6:21

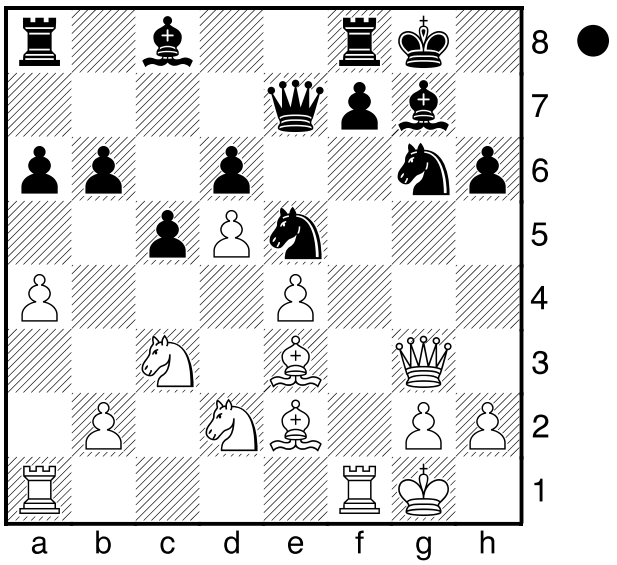


So it's a typical Modern Benoni position where instead of ...Bg7 Black has gotten in ...b6 *and* ...Nbd7. Is it a good deal?
10.Bg5?! 4:05 Giving Black *another* free move.
[10.Be2 Bg7 11.0-0 0-0 12.Bf4 is, as with a lot of King's Indians and Benoni's, evaluated very good for White by the computers. In practice "things" tend to happen...]

10...h6 1:41 **11.Be3** 5:11 **Ng4** 2:38
12.Bf4⩲ 1:34
[12.Bc1 is Stockfish's #1 move; is Black really hurting himself with all those free moves?]
12...Qf6?! 3:35
[12...Bg7!? 13.Bxd6 Bxc3+!? 14.bxc3 Ndf6! *(14...Qf6? 15.Bg3 Qxc3+ 16.Nd2+-)* 15.e5 Ne4 16.Ra2! Nxd6 17.exd6 0-0 for example.]
13.Bg3 1:35 **Bg7?!** 4:34
[13...g5!]
14.Be2 1:30
[14.h3 Nge5 15.Nxe5 Nxe5 16.f4 is a bit better for White]
14...g5 2:34 No second chance **15.0-0** 6:39 **Nge5** 2:00 **16.Nd2!** 1:45 **0-0** 8:18
17.f4 5:04 **gxf4** 4:12 **18.Bxf4** 31
[18.Rxf4!]
18...Ng6?! 1:29
[18...Qe7 freeing ...f6 for the knight]



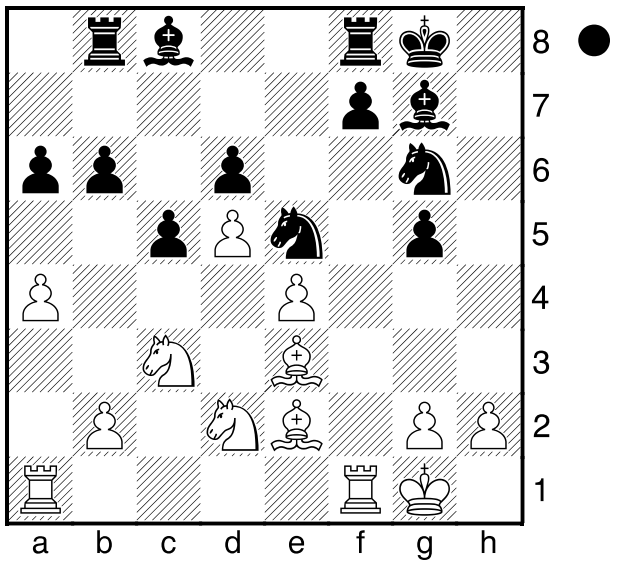
19.Be3?! 1:21
[19.Bg3! Qe7 20.Nc4 gets to f5 far too quickly and effectively. Stockfish: +-!]
19...Qe7 1:09 **20.Qe1?** 14:52
[20.Bg4! trades off Black's one minor piece that eyes f5, even if it hasn't moved.]
20...Nde5 2:08 Black is okay now.
21.Qg3 6:54



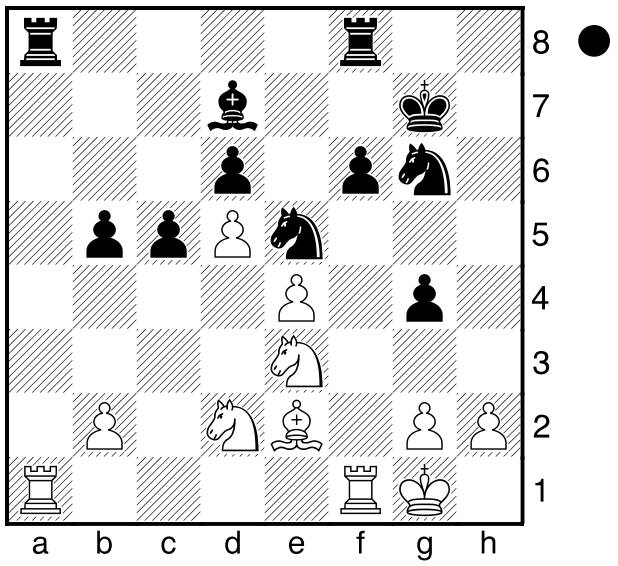
Rb8?! 5:47
[21...Bd7∓ keeps open three options: ...Rab8, ...Rfb8, and ...b5 right away.]
22.Bf2 8:39 White's maneuvers don't make so much sense. **22...Qg5?!** 3:17
[22...b5! 23.axb5 axb5 24.Bxb5 when poor Black must choose; *(24.Nxb5 c4!)* 24...Ng4! with fine play for the pawn *(24...Bf6!?; 24...f5!?)*]
23.Qxg5?! 1:37 Black is happy in the endgame.
[23.Be1=]
23...hxg5 2 **24.Be3** 3:10

(Diagram)

g4?!= 4:22
[24...Nf4!∓ Black saw that this was tactically all right but didn't realize it was the right path all round.]
25.Bg5 2:47 Curious to see "0.00" on White's top half-dozen moves here. Black's continuation is the same on most of them: ... Ra8, ...Bd7, ...Kh7, ...Rfb8. But neither side can proceed much further. **25...f6** 4:04 **26.Be3** 51 **Kh7**

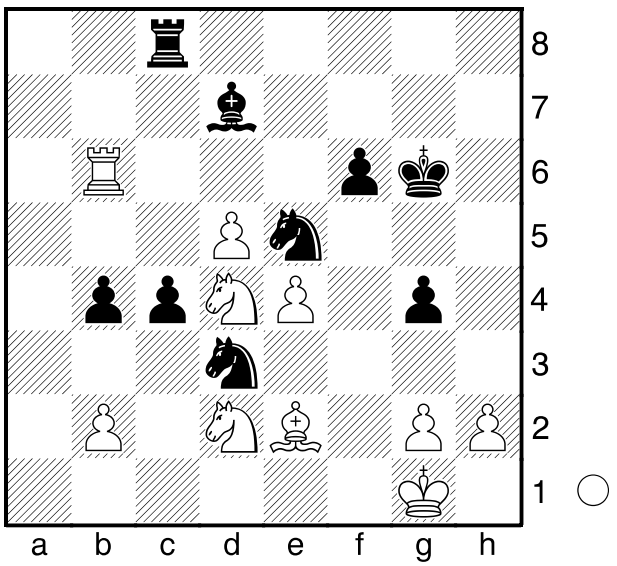


2:14 **27.Rf2** 2:09 **Bh6?!** 1:19
Not the best trade. **28.Bxh6±** 5 **Kxh6** 5
29.Raf1 21 **Kg7** 21 **30.Nd1?!** 2:54
[An advantage was with, say, 30.b3]
30...b5 23 **31.axb5?!** 24
[31.b3]
31...axb5 6 Now it's Black on top...
32.Ne3 1:53 **Bd7** 1:42 **33.Ra1?!** 3:10
It's natural to contest the a-file, but there is a flaw. **33...Ra8** 1:10 **34.Rff1?** 1:09



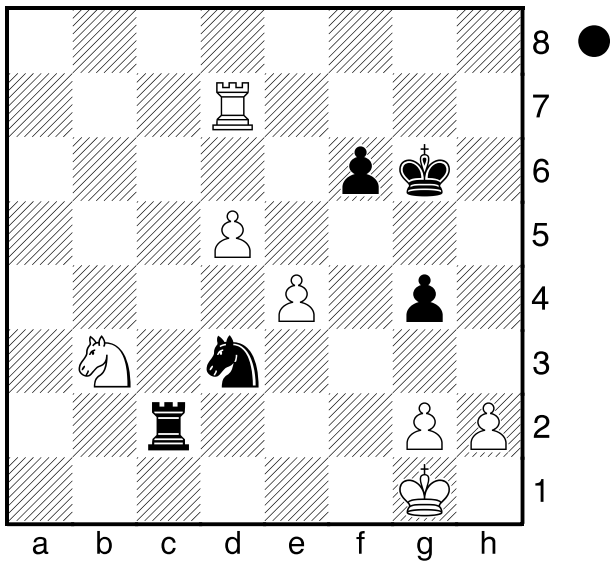
c4? 1:14
[34...Nf4! 35.Kf2 Nfd3+ 36.Bxd3 Nxd3+ picks off the P/b2 with a won game.]

35.Nc2! 1:05 **Rxa1?!** 1:26
[35...Rfe8]
36.Rxa1 2 **Nf4** 18 **37.Nd4?!** 52
[37.Bf1 Nfd3 *(37...f5!?)* 38.Bxd3 Nxd3 39.b4 f5∓]
37...Kg6?! 3:27 "Pass" was not a good play.
[37...Nfd3 38.Bxd3 Nxd3 39.Ra6 Nxb2 40.Rxd6 Rf7 is some initiative, but White seems to hold.]
[37...Rc8!?]
38.Ra6 1:12
[38.Bf1]
38...Rc8!? 5:04
[38...Nxe2+ 39.Nxe2 Rc8 40.Rxd6 Kf7!?]
39.Rxd6 2:05 **b4** 14 Black plays his big trump, the advanced majority.
[39...Nxe2+ 40.Nxe2 Kf7∓]
40.Rb6!= 2:06 **Nfd3?!** 2:40
[40...Nxe2+ 41.Nxe2 c3 42.bxc3 bxc3 43.Nb3 c2 44.Kf2! and Black's plus fades.]
[40...c3 41.bxc3 bxc3 42.N2b3 c2 43.Nc1 Nxe2+ 44.Ndxe2 Rc4 45.Rb2 f5 46.exf5+ Bxf5=]



41.Rb7?! 42 White misses Black's Benoni tricks.
[41.b3= keeps equality;]

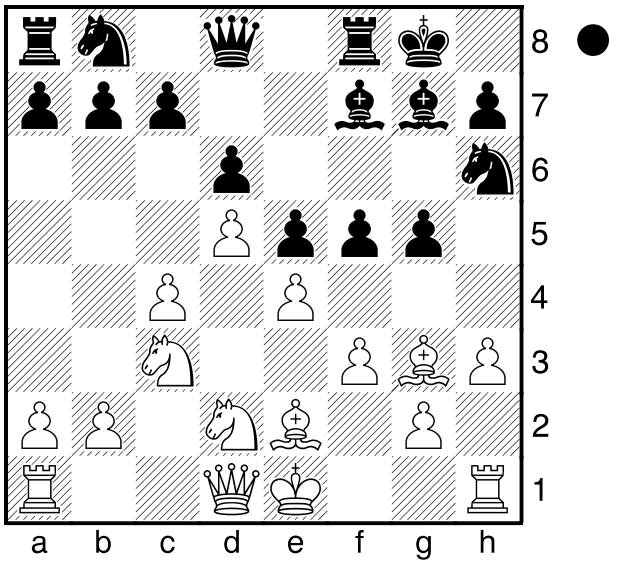
[So does 41.Nf1=]
41...c3 1:34 **42.bxc3** 23 **bxc3** 11
43.N2b3? 53 It's objectively lost now.
[43.Nf1 Nc5 44.Rb4 Kg5!
is pressing, but maybe White can still hold.]
43...c2 1:30 **44.Nxc2?!** 56
[44.Bxd3 Nxd3 45.Ne2 requires Black to find the only Ba4! 46.Nbc1 Nxc1 47.Nxc1 Rc4-+ threatens both ...Rxe4 and ...Rd4.]
44...Rxc2 13 **45.Bxd3** 17 **Nxd3** 12
46.Rxd7 18



Rb2! 21 Again, the only move, but here it's curtains. **47.h3?** 1:02
[47.Nc1 Nxc1-+ *(47...Rb1 48.Rc7 Nxc1 49.Kf2 Nd3+-+)*]
47...g3 27 mate should follow! **48.Kf1** 22
[48.Rc7 Re2!]
48...Rxb3? 8
[48...Rf2+ 49.Kg1 Re2! throws the switch. White was the one in time trouble...]
49.d6 38 **Nf4** 45 **50.Ke1** 16 **Nxg2+** 6
51.Ke2 15 **Nf4+** 8 **52.Kd2** 45 **g2** 17
53.Rd8 7 **Kf7** 29 **54.Rd7+** 20 **Kg6** 57
55.Rd8 5 **Kh7** 12 **56.Rd7+** 7 **Kh6** 6
57.Rf7 42 **Rd3+** 55 A loss by Sadia, but a real battle against an opponent more than 400 points higher rated.
0-1

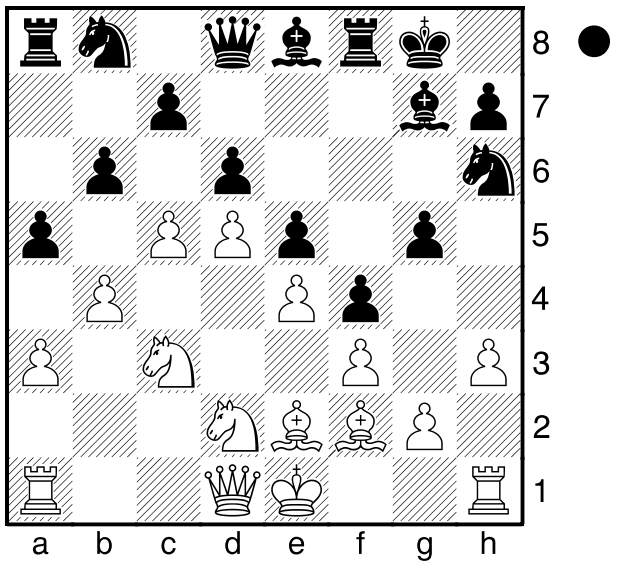
E92
□ **Walder,Michael** **2073**
■ **Mercado,Adam** **1800**
MI Falconer TNM: 1800+ (1.5) 01.03.2022
[de Firmian]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Nf3 0-0 6.Be2 e5 7.Be3
The Gligoric System of the King's Indian Defense. As usual Mike Walder is well prepared in the opening. **7...Ng4 8.Bg5 f6 9.Bh4 g5 10.Bg3 Nh6 11.h3 Be6?!** White gets a clear edge after this. Probably better is simple development with 11...Nc6 **12.d5 Bf7 13.Nd2**
[13.h4 would also cause Black troubles]
13...f5 14.f3

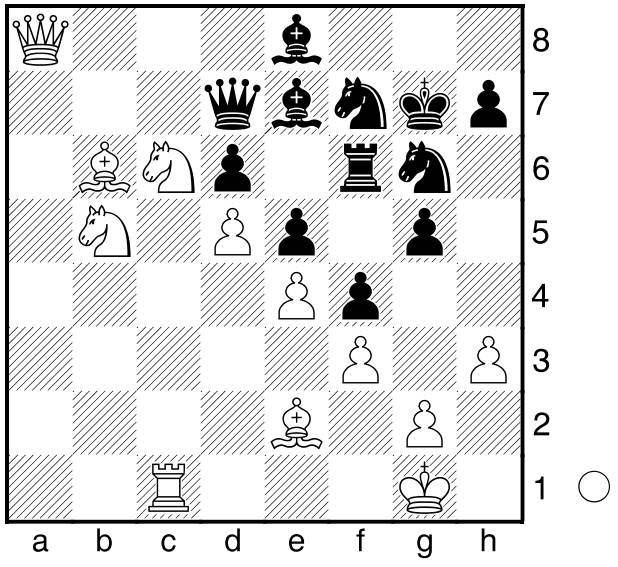


Black's kingside advance is not generating real play on the kingside since the black pieces and pawns are lacking some harmony there. **14...a5?!** Trying to block on the queenside but it ends up opening another file. **15.Bf2 f4?!** Locking the kingside. This is a normal KID move yet the kingside pawn

storm is too slow in this position. **16.a3 b6 17.b4 Be8 18.c5**



All the play in now on the queenside where White is strong. The white pawn on d5 cramps the black position - an ideal KID for White. **18...axb4 19.axb4 Rxa1 20.Qxa1 bxc5 21.bxc5 Nd7 22.cxd6 cxd6 23.0-0!** Finally placing the white king on the kingside, but it is very safe here now. The white invasion on the queenside is unstoppable. **23...Rf6 24.Rc1 Nf7 25.Nb5 Bf8 26.Nc4 Be7 27.Na5 Nf8 28.Nc6 Qd7 29.Qa8 Kg7 30.Bb6 Ng6**

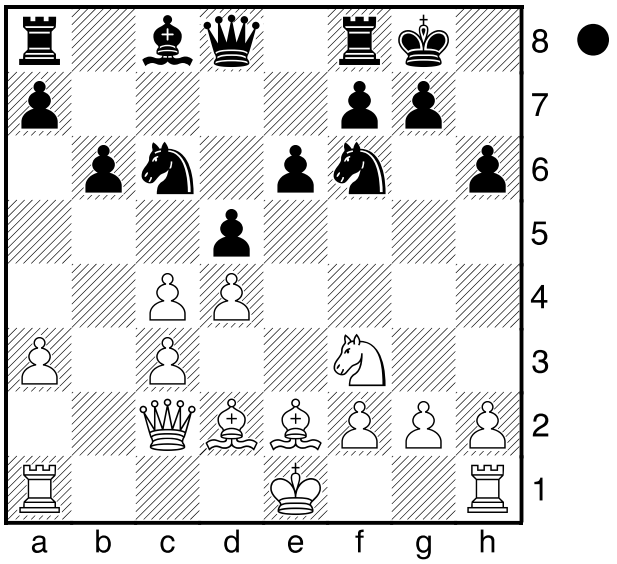


Winning the black queen, which is of course enough. The position was so dominant there were other ways such as 31. Nc7 **31.Nb8 Qxb5 32.Bxb5 Bxb5 33.Nc6 Bf8 34.Bd8**
1-0

E32

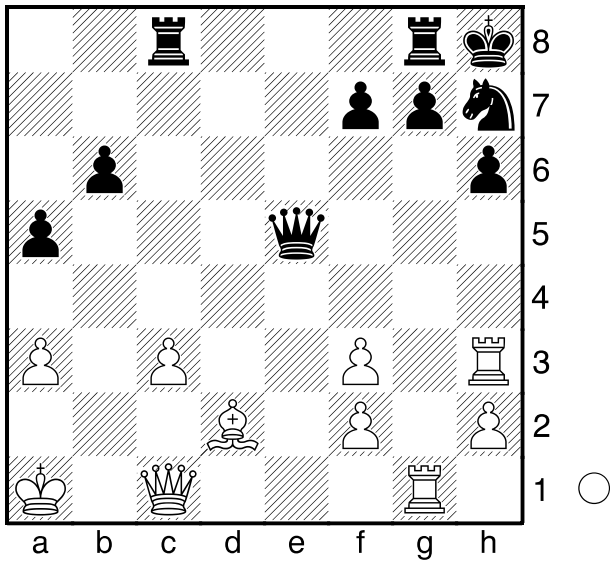
□ **Talamantez,Abel** **1800**
■ **Kelly,Sean** **2008**
MI Falconer TNM: 1800+ (1.7) 01.03.2022
[de Firmian]

Abel is back at the MI! Ok, as a player now rather than director but we are just as happy. **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Qc2** A classical Nimzo-indian, just like Capablanca used to play. **4...0-0 5.Bg5 c5 6.e3 cxd4 7.exd4 Nc6 8.Nf3 h6 9.Bd2!?** This is a bit unusual. I would prefer the standard 9. Bh4 keeping the pin on the f6 knight. **9...d5 10.a3 Bxc3 11.bxc3?!** The pawn strucure starts to favor Black now. 11. Bxc3 is more solid. **11...b6 12.Be2?!**
[12.cxd5]



12...Ba6! 13.cxd5 Bxe2 14.dxc6 Bxf3 15.gxf3 Qd5 The resulting position is a

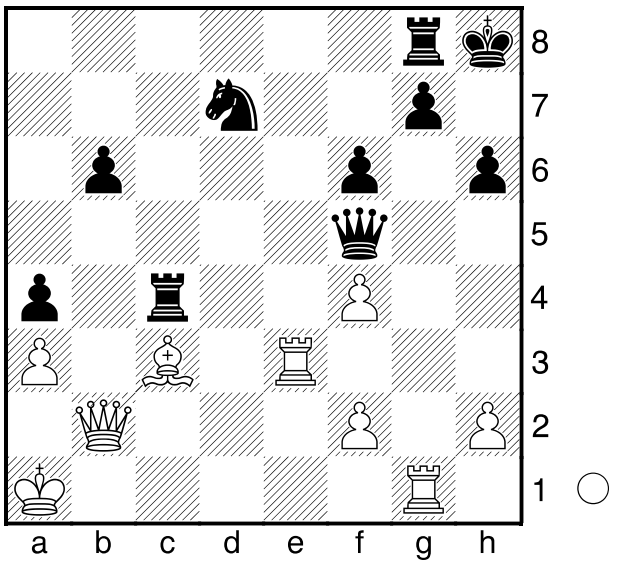
clear edge for Black. White has the g-file but Black's position is more coherant. **16.Rg1 Kh8 17.0-0-0** I like this move. White is in difficulties in any case so you may as well go down slugging. **17...Qxc6 18.Rg3 Rac8 19.Rdg1 Rg8** Sean plays a cool defense. It's hard to break into the black kingside even with all the white pieces aimed that way. **20.Rh3 Nh7 21.Kb2 a5 22.Qc1 e5 23.dxe5 Qb5+ 24.Ka1 Qxe5**



The centralized black queen helps both the attack and defense. **25.f4 Qf5 26.Rhg3 Nf6 27.Re3 Nd7 28.Qb2 a4 29.c4 Rxc4 30.Bc3 f6!**

(Diagram)

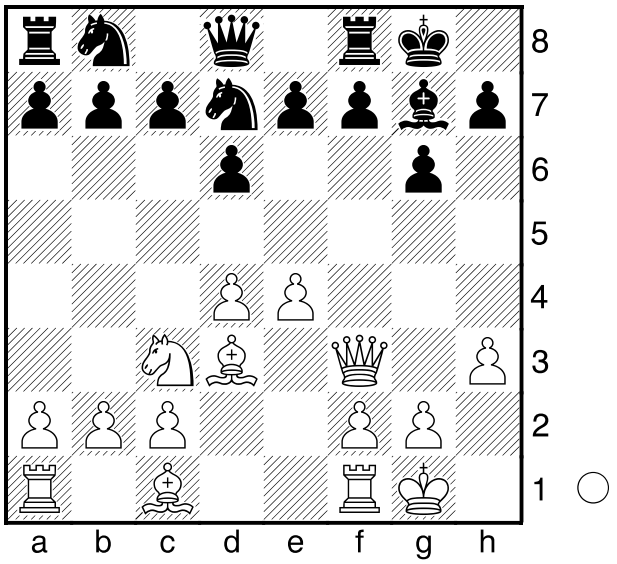
Blunting the force of the bishop on the long diagonal. There is now way for White to get through so Black is just winning. **31.Re7 Qc5**
[31...Nc5]
32.Bb4 Qd5 33.Rge1 Nc5 34.Bxc5 Qxc5 35.Kb1 Rc3 36.R7e3 Qf5+ 37.Ka1 Rc6 A good battle, well played by Sean. We look forward to more of Abel's games this TNM.
0-1



B08

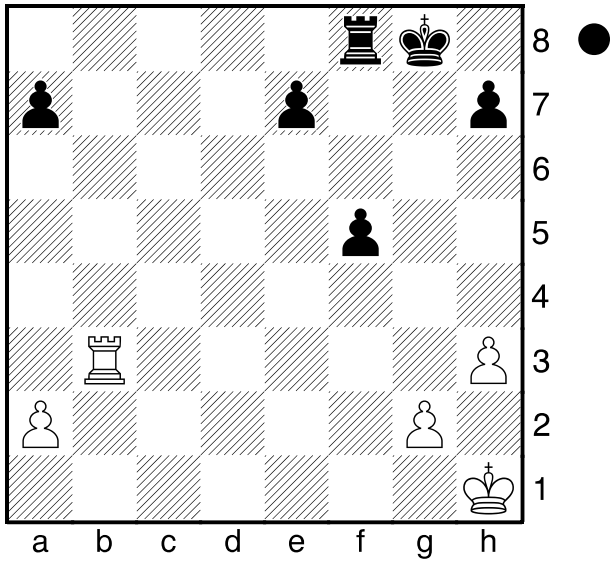
□ **Gu,Thomas** **1321**
■ **Admassu,Yonathan** **1678**
MI Falconer TNM: u1800 (1.6) 01.03.2022
[de Firmian]

1.e4 8 **d6** 40 **2.Nf3** 36 **Nf6** 58 **3.Nc3** 16 **g6** 17 **4.d4** 1:04 **Bg7** 1:07 **5.Bd3** 1:15 **0-0** 2:00 **6.0-0** 1:13 **Bg4** 55 **7.h3** 21 **Bxf3** 27 **8.Qxf3** 20 **Nfd7** 55



A good move to play for pressure on the central dark squares. **9.Be3** 1:14 **Nc6**

2:10 **10.d5** 4:06
[10.Ne2 e5 11.c3 exd4 12.cxd4 Nde5! 13.dxe5 Nxe5 14.Qg3 Nxd3 15.Bg5 f6 is a bit better for Black]
10...Nde5 1:56 **11.Qe2** 43 **Nxd3** 5:05 **12.Qxd3** 1:20 **Ne5** 32 **13.Qe2** 46 **c6** 5:48 **14.f4** 2:31 **Nd7** 1:26 **15.dxc6** 32 **bxc6** 57 **16.Rfd1** 1:10 **Qb8** 24:37 **17.Rab1** 1:01 **Qb4** 5:52 Thus far a well played game which is about equal.
18.f5? 2:37 **Bxc3!** 10:44 **19.bxc3** 11 **Qxe4** 28 **20.fxg6** 1:26 **fxg6** 5:30 **21.Rd4** 2:57 **Qe6** 1:23 **22.Qd3** 1:32 **Nc5** 2:05 **23.Qc4** 35 **d5!** 5:42 **24.Qxc5** 5:19 **Qxe3+** 26 **25.Kh1** 35 Black is a pawn ahead with better pawn structure.
25...Rf5!? 11:51 **26.Qxc6** 59 **Raf8** 59 **27.Qb5** 1:30 **Qxc3** 7:33 **28.Rxd5** 26 **Qxc2** 2:06 **29.Rxf5** 1:13 **gxf5** 4:27 **30.Qb3+** 1:09 **Qxb3** 22 **31.Rxb3** 10



Thomas has defended well to get drawing chances in the rook ending.
31...Rf7 52 **32.Rb7?!** 45
[32.Re3!]
32...e5 30 **33.Rxf7?** Trading to a pawn down king and pawn ending is a sure loss. A rook ending has much better defensive chances. **33...Kxf7 34.Kg1 f4 35.Kf2 Kf6 36.g4 Kg5 37.Kf3 Kh4 38.Kg2 e4 39.a3 f3+ 40.Kf2 Kxh3 41.Ke3 Kg2 42.Kxe4 f2 43.g5 f1Q 44.Ke5 Kg3 45.a4 Qf4+ 46.Kd5 Qxg5+ 47.Kc6 h5**
0-1

David Askin vs Joshua Lamstein with Abel Talamantez vs Sean Kelly in the background

TD Dr. Judit Sztaray with Ambrogino Giusti

GM Nick de Firmian

Chess World after Russia's Invasion of Ukraine

The Russian invasion of the Ukraine has had dramatic consequences in the chess world. Russia has been a very important part of the chess world for more than a century now, and the political consequences of the invasion affect chess probably more than any sport on the planet. The head of FIDE (the world chess federation), Arkady Dvorkovich, is a Russian billionaire with a passion for chess. The Chess Olympiad was scheduled to be in Moscow this summer, but that has been cancelled. In a surprising move, FIDE banned Russia from international chess, along with Belarus who is collaborating in the invasion. We note that India may take up the vacancy and host the 44th Chess Olympiad later this year.

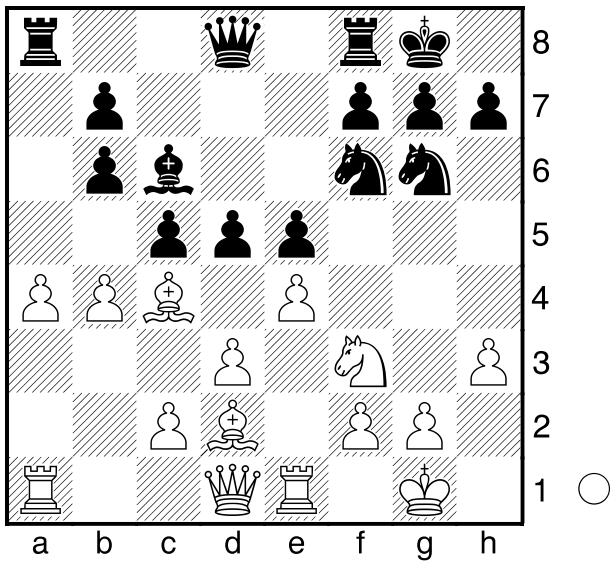
Chess, as everything, has had to endure the trials and tribulations of war on the planet for centuries. We wrote about Miguel Najdorf two months ago and how he had to stay in Argentina instead of his native Poland when World War II broke out in 1939. The war in Ukraine is affecting many top chess players. Russian world championship challenger Ian Nepomniachtchi was playing the finals of the Meltwater Grand Tour against world champion Carlsen when war broke out. He wrote a twitter comment with #notowar to express his views. Almost all other chess players outside Russian were, of course, anti-war, but it is harder when you are living in Vladimir Putin's country. Former challenger Sergey Karjakin is a Putin supporter, and while this is convenient living in Russian he may get banned from tournaments in the West.

Still there is anti-war support even inside Russia and some of the chess players are expressing themselves. Super grandmaster Peter Svidler from St. Petersburg has come out against the war along with others. Top ten player Alexander Grischuk has a situation not uncommon in the region. He is Russian, but his wife, Ekaterina Legno, is Ukrainian. I can personally testify Grischuk is a considered person who must be torn by the current politics. He is playing in the 2nd FIDE Grand Prix now in Belgrade (using an international flag instead of a Russian one) but his mind is not all focused on chess. With all the problems in the world, we give below two entertaining chess games that the top players have produced in the midst of the world's troubles.

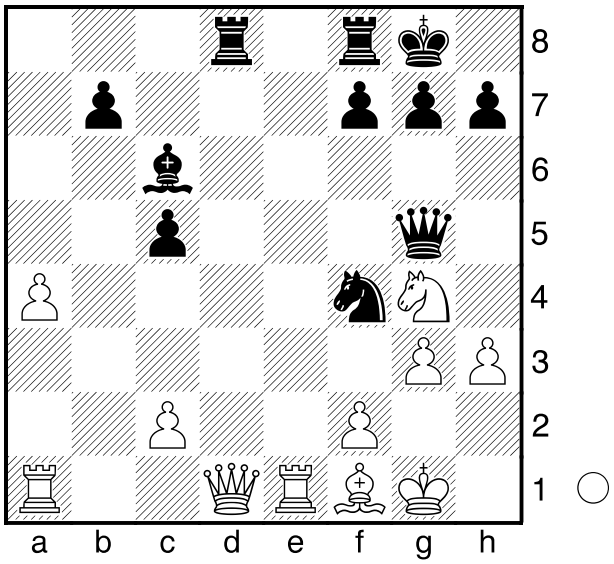
C50

□ **Carlsen,Magnus** **2865**
■ **Nepomniachtchi,Ian** **2773**
Meltwater Champions Chess Tour 2022 | A (4)

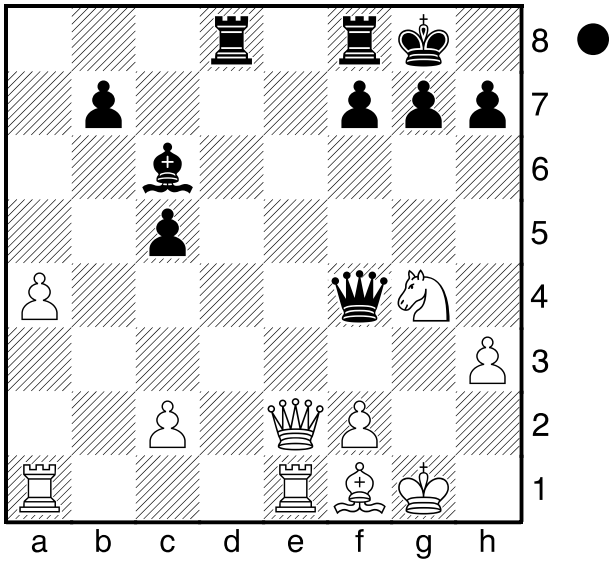
Rapid 15min+10sec Carlsen and Nepo had drawn all four games of classical chess in the final and had also drawn the rapid chess, so now were down to 15 min for each player games. **1.e4 e5 2.Bc4** Avoiding Petrov's Defense and throwing a surprise opening. **2...Nf6 3.d3 Bc5 4.Nf3 d6 5.Nc3 Nc6 6.Na4** This doesn't get an advantage (nothing does in this position) but it breaks the symmetry and makes the game more interesting. **6...Bb6 7.Nxb6 axb6 8.a4 Bd7 9.Bd2 0-0 10.0-0 Ne7 11.b3 Ng6 12.Re1 c5 13.h3 Bc6 14.b4 d5**



The game is about even with White having the bishop pair but Black a well developed game in the center. **15.exd5 Bxd5 16.Bb5 e4 17.dxe4 Nxe4 18.bxc5 Nxd2 19.Nxd2 Nf4** Nepo as usual is going for action. He focuses on the g2 square. **20.Bf1 bxc5 21.Nc4 Qf6 22.Ne3 Bc6 23.Ng4 Qg5 24.g3!** Black is very active and White would get in trouble without the aggressive defense trying to push Black back. **24...Rad8?**



Aggressively pushing the attack to the limit, but there is a flaw. **25.gxf4! Qxf4 26.Qe2**

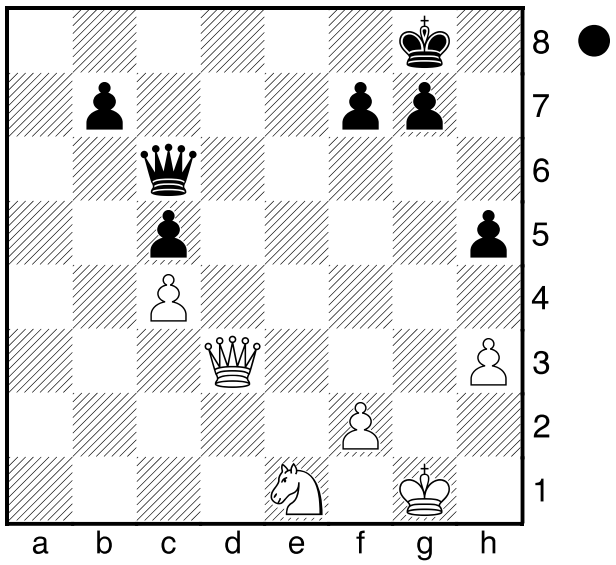


Rde8

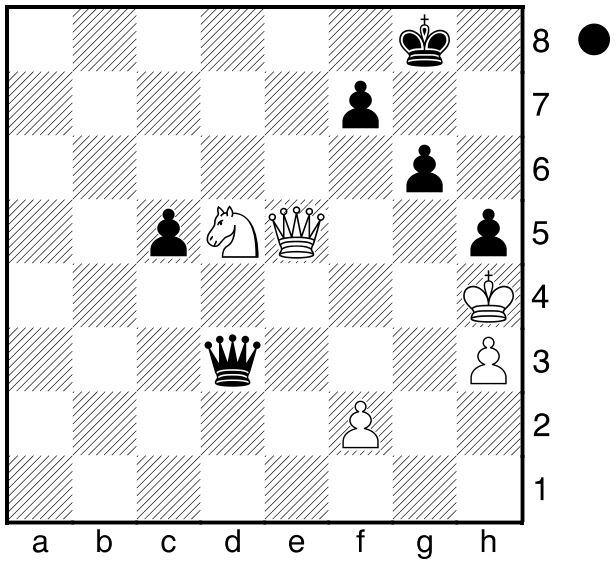
[26...Rfe8 27.Rad1! challenges the d-file since Rxe2? 28.Rxd8+ is mate in 2. Thus Nepo had to play the other rook to e8 which is not as helpful to the attack.]

27.Qd3 h5 28.Nh2 Re5 29.Rxe5 Qxe5 30.c3 Magnus starts to consolidate with the extra material. Soon it will be a matter of techniquie. **30...Re8**

31.Bg2 Qg5 32.Nf3! Qf4 33.Re1 Rxe1+ 34.Nxe1 Qxa4 35.Bxc6 Qxc6 36.c4



A knight for two pawns is surely enough for the world champion to win. Magnus doesn't disappoint. **36...g6 37.Ng2 Qf6 38.Qe4 Qa1+ 39.Kh2 Qb2 40.Kg3 Kg7 41.Ne3 b5 42.cxb5 Qxb5 43.Qe5+! Kg8 44.Nd5 Qd3+ 45.Kh4!**

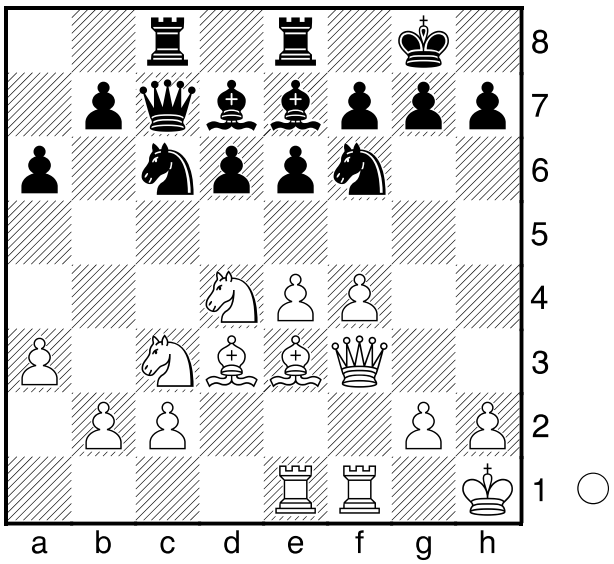


The white queen, knight and king help in the attack! **45...Qd2 46.f4 Qg2 47.Nf6+ Kf8 48.Nd7+ Kg8 49.Qe8+ Kg7 50.Qf8+** mate next move. Nepo resigned.
1-0

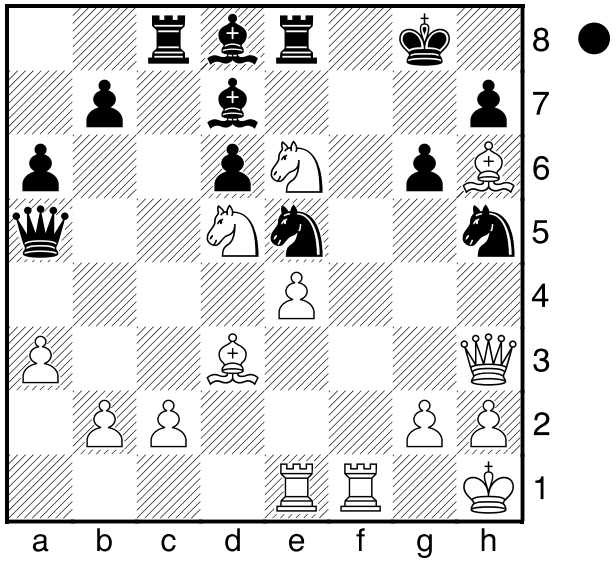
B48

□ **Grischuk,Alexander 2764**
■ **Andreikin,Dmitry 2724**
FIDE Grand Chess Prix 2 All Pools 2022 (1)

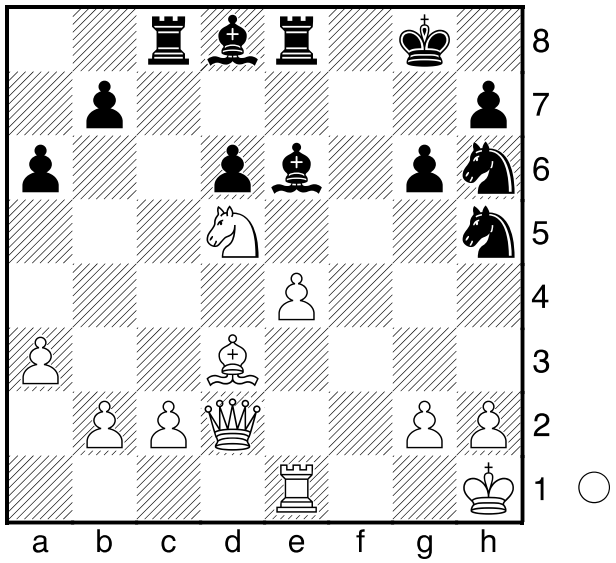
Blitz 0min Grischuk has been a top ten player for a decade, but he is not focused as well as usual in this game.
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nc6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be3 Nf6 7.a3 d6 8.f4 Qc7 9.Bd3 Be7 10.0-0 0-0 11.Kh1 Re8 12.Qf3 Bd7 13.Rae1 Rac8



This is a classic Sicilian battle. White has attacking chances on the kingside while Black has queenside counterplay.
14.Qg3 Nh5 15.Qf3 g6 16.f5!? Ne5 17.Qh3 Qd8!? This is a provacative move. White will win the e-pawn at the cost of getting into a pin on the knight against the queen. 18.fxe6 fxe6 19.Nxe6 Qa5 20.Nd5 Bd8
A very interesting position with about even chances. The white knight on e6 is pinned and in danger, but White has threatening pieces on the kingside.
21.Bh6?



Qxe1!! Andreikin finds the tactical flaw in Grischuk's attack. White needed to play 21. b4 before Bh6 when the white attack would have been well worth a pawn. 22.Rxe1 Bxe6 23.Qe3 So Black has gotten a bishop and rook for the queen - not enough. Yet Andreikin has more to the combination. 23...Ng4! 24.Qd2 Nxh6



Now Grishuk sees that 25. Qxh6 loses the knight to 25...Bxd5 with a pin on the e-file. No matter what Black has a decisive material advantage with rook and two pieces for the queen. 25.Be2 Ng7 26.Rf1 Nf7 27.Nf6+ Bxf6 28.Rxf6 Rc5 29.h3 Nh5 30.Bxh5 Rxh5 31.Qf2 Re5 Black has consolidated. The material will tell. 32.Qb6 Re7 33.Rf4 g5 34.Rf2 Rxe4 35.b3 Bd5 White resigned in this hopeless position. **0-1**

FM Paul Whitehead

Chess is everywhere.

I am splitting up my report into two sections today: Russia/Ukraine, and everything else.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has dominated the news in the chess world lately, and what follows is a breakdown of just some of it.

GM Sergey Karjakin is facing wide-spread **censure** following his **support of the invasion**:
https://www.mirror.co.uk/sport/other-sports/chess-grandmaster-sergey-karjakin-ukraine-26351273

Indian **IM Anwesh Upadhyaya** is trapped in Kyiv:
https://www.espn.com/chess/story/_/id/33360098/indian-chess-im-ukraine-russia-war-alone-kyiv-apartment

A photograph of the Captain of the Ukrainian Team **GM Oleksandr Sulypa holding a rifle** has gone viral on the Internet:
https://chess24.com/en/read/news/ukrainian-chess-grandmasters-caught-in-a-warzone

The World Chess Federation (FIDE) has **barred Russia from holding any sanctioned events**, including the **2022 Chess Olympiad**:
https://www.chess.com/news/view/2022-fide-council-ukraine-belarus-russia

Is Russian President **Vladimir Putin** simply **"chess thumping"**?
https://www.eurasiareview.com/27022022-putins-moves-are-hardly-chess-thumping-analysis/

Ex World Champion **Anatoly Karpov**, as a **member of the Russian Parliament**, has also been **sanctioned**:
https://www.marca.com/en/more-sports/2022/02/24/6217efbc22601d8f2e8b45d9.html

And now on to the world of chess outside the Russia/Ukraine conflict.

World Champion **Magnus Carlsen** added another feather to his cap by defeating Russian **GM Ian Nepomniatchi** in the finals of the **Airthings Masters**:
https://en.chessbase.com/post/airthings-masters-2022-d8

A real life **Cinderella** story. Just no Prince, and the **magic slipper is a chess-board and pieces**:
https://www.newser.com/story/317256/12-hours-a-day-as-a-maid-then-victories-in-chess.html

WGM **Jennifer Shahade** on her new book ***Chess Queens: The True Story of a Chess Champion and the Greatest Female Players of All Time***, the Netflix blockbuster **The Queen's Gambit**, and more:
https://www.independent.ie/life/its-a-very-intense-and-polarising-experience-to-be-a-woman-in-chess-41373874.html

GM **Hou Yifan** celebrated her birthday on February 27th. We still remember her electrifying lecture at the **Mechanics' Institute Chess Club**:
https://www.instagram.com/p/Bj-iuyFFGZK/?taken-by=milibrary

The **Memphis Chess Club** is also a destination restaurant – what a venue!
https://memphismagazine.com/food/best-new-restaurants-memphis-chess-club/

Interested in finding your soul mate or the answer to that mate-in-three? Consider consulting your **Chess Horoscope**:
https://www.chess.com/article/view/chess-horoscope

Chess is everywhere.

GM Hou Yifan at the Mechanics' Institute, May 22 2018.

Dr. Judit Sztaray

Notation, Draw Claims, and the DGT board

Notating your game is not only mandatory, but useful for many reasons. Having a complete scoresheet is necessary to make various draw claims, such as the 50-move rule, insufficient losing chances, and triple occurrence rule. In addition, having a time control with +30 increment would guarantee you have enough time to notate all the moves, thus per the rules a player must notate all their moves until the end of the game, and they cannot stop notating if they are under 5 minutes.

Unfortunately, offering a time control with +30 increment is not a realistic option here due to, well, really wanting to leave the building before midnight. Therefore the Tuesday Night Marathon is currently offering the time control of G/120;d5. Under FIDE rules, a five (5) second delay means that players have the right to stop notating if they are under five minutes. (Note the difference between FIDE and US Chess rules on this particular part.)

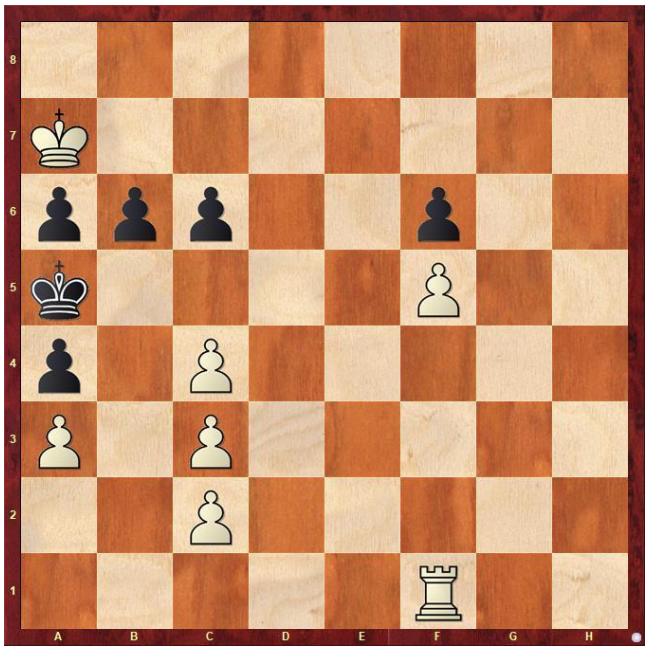
What happens when one is under 5 minutes, but there is a realistic chance to claim a draw? Players can do one of the following:

1. Continue to notate despite the option to stop notating. This part is a no-brainer: until the time permits and not losing a lot of time, one can continue to notate and use their own scoresheet to back up any claim.
2. Pause the clock and ask the arbiter to observe the game and possibly notate. For the arbiter it may be hard to do if there are still multiple games going on, or if the moves are happening too fast. Counting the moves on the other hand is often easy and achievable, and that's also important information for the TD in case the 50-move rule is not claimed, then the arbiter can intervene after 75 moves and declare the game as a draw.
3. If the game is on DGT board, the records can also be used to verify the claim. The claim must be made by the player, but if they are not required to notate, then they do not need a complete scoresheet to make the claim and the electronic notation can be used to check the claim.

Claiming a draw can be a nuanced procedure, and maybe we'll get into that next issue. But meanwhile, I hope this will help players in time trouble in case they want to make a draw claim.

Tony's Teasers

White to move and mate in 4.



Richard Hack's Stories from the Chess Café

During the pandemic, our chess club has conducted many activities online, and developed closer ties with the Marshall Chess Club in New York and others. One of the brightest inspirations has been our Chess Café (Mondays from 4:00-5:30 p.m. on Zoom), where for well over a year, players have gathered to discuss and analyze their games and those of others (including the greats going all the way back to Greco). We hear news of the day, how the game and the world of chess have changed, and how the tournament players among us study and prepare. Although no subject is off limits, and we freely share all kinds of knowledge and opinions, we quickly come back to our primary focus, the game and its endless parade of wonders.

Chess Café discussions are led by FIDE Master Paul Whitehead, with assistance from GM Nick de Firmian, WIM Alexey Root, former master Michael Walder (who often brings in material from the strong Azeri GM, Gadir Guseinov, who teaches several of our players online), IM Sal Matera, IM Elliott Winslow, and other distinguished visitors. Players who

attend are from all rating classes, and everyone is encouraged to add their own comments and bon mots. There's nobody like Nick for encouraging other players and sharing his deep knowledge. His kindness and philosophical attitude come through even in his candid criticism of moves.

Of the 14 participants last Monday, one was Zooming from Wyoming, one from Dallas, and another from D.C. We began with a short reading from The Romantic King's Gambit by the colorful and entertaining Tony Santasiere. We often deal with vexing questions like personal achievement and the rating system. We invite you to sit in, to listen and speak.

Editor's Note: Information for joining the Chess Café is here: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/online#Chesscafe

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Meet our players - Sadia Qureshi

Celebrating Women's History Month, we'll be featuring some of our female players who are regular at our club's tournaments.

"I learned how to play chess when I was 7 and have been playing on and off since then. Somehow I always find my way back to competitive chess.

I taught myself how to play with a beginner set that contained detailed descriptions of each piece and rule. I would have to say the knight is my favorite piece— they're quite sneaky and fun to maneuver around.
My favorite chess player is Susan Polgar due to the impact she had on me growing up. Attending her all-girls invitational chess camp many times, I got the chance to know Polgar on a more personal level. Her presence as a successful female player was inspiring and provided me with a sense of belonging in the chess community as a young girl.

I came across Mechanics' when I was looking around for tournaments in the Bay; it instantly became my favorite place to play. Originally from Texas, I chose Berkeley because it felt like a great opportunity for me to grow and experience someplace new. I never felt that chess interfered with my academics. In fact, many times, having a chess tournament on the weekend helped me to manage my time better and not procrastinate so I would have time to play. The way I see it, if I'm ever too busy for the things that I love, then maybe I'm not doing life right.

On the surface, Mechanics' brings the Bay Area chess community together and gives its members the opportunity to improve their game and meet new people. Perhaps less obviously, it also provides chess players of all ages and backgrounds an outlet to escape from their busy lives and get lost in their games for hours without thinking of anything else."

Upcoming Events

Ongoing Tuesday Night Marathon:
Falconer Memorial Tuesday Night Marathon,
March 1 - April 122022, 6:30PM FIDE Rated. 7SS G/120;d5
Information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/falconer-memorial-tuesday-night-marathon
Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2022Tournaments/FalconerMemorialTuesdayNightMarathon

A.J. Fink Amateur u2000 Championship
March 6, 2022, USCF Rated. 4SS G/45;d5
Information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/aj-fink-amateur-u2200-championship-g45-person
Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2022Tournaments/AJFinkMemorialu2000ChampionshipG45

Mechanics' Institute March Championship Quads

March 12, 2022, 3PM USCF Rated. 3RR G/30;d5

Information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-championship-quads

Solution to Tony's Teaser

1 Rc1! b5 2 c5 b4 3 cxb4 Kb5 4 c4 mate.

If 1...c5 2 Rd1 b5 3 Rd5 bxc4 4 Rxc5 mate.

Submit your piece or feedback

We would welcome any feedback, articles or "Letter to the Editor" piece. Submit yours today through this Google Form:

https://forms.gle/eLfUyg2yFZ3vxgcMA

Falconer Round One: William Thibault vs Paul Reed and Hoa Long Tam vs Dean Guo